JANA ROMANOVA

Artist inspired by misunderstandings

I'm an artist inspired by misunderstandings. I work with participatory and play practices, using photography and video to discover gaps between what we say and what we do. I search for these breaches in communication to transform them into spaces for connection and togetherness. My long-term projects were exhibited at various international exhibitions and festivals such as Copenhagen PhotoFestival (Denmark), Format (Derby, UK), Chobi Mela (Dakha, Bangladesh), Cortona on the Move (Italy), Encontros da Imagem (Braga, Portugal), the Backlight Festival (Tampere, Finland), Encuentros Abietros Festival (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and many others, and I've got several prizes and honorable mentions in art and precisely photography all over the world. Currently, I'm researching how games, play, and playfulness can be tools for creating meaningful connections. I design and facilitate LARPs (liveaction role plays) and games in physical spaces as a part of my art practice. As a guest teacher, I'm invited to facilitate workshops on playful approaches at The Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, Wageningen University, and ArtEz in the Netherlands.

WEBSITES

portfolio

janaromanova.com SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/jana.romanova instagram.com/janarom www.linkedin.com/in/jana-romanova/

EDUCATION

 2019 - MA Photography and Society Den Haag,
 2021 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

2016 - Joop Swart Masterclass World Press Photo

2016

2001 - Journalist Saint-Petersburg State University

2006 diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 The Broken Archive The Balcony The Hague, Netherlands A performance and a live-action role-playing game about family archives and acceptance thebalconythehague.com/The-Broken-

PROJECTS

2022 I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long The Hague,
Netherlands
www.fotodok.org/evenement/outsiderland-x-fotodok/ I don't think I'll stay here long

tells the stories of women who fled Ukraine

Archive Solo

Romanova.

2024

2025 Water Views VU Art Science Gallery
Amsterdam, Netherlands Water Views
brings us the perspectives of artists and
researchers on the topic of water
through transdisciplinary exchange. In
an exhibition and a series of dialogues
several approaches to water will be
explored, from the colonial trade routes
to the ecological impact of our changing
climate, to old and new aquatic
thinking. With works by Valerie van
Leersum, Tanja Engelberts, Suzette

Bousema, Huniti Goldox and Jana

www.artsciencegallery.nl/exhibition/waterviews/ Group

Water Portraits Museum Hilversum Hilversum, Netherlands "Water Portraits," by young artist Jana 2022 Romanova, playfully and exploratively explores our water consumption. Through photographic documentation of 101 ice sculptures, she invites you to reflect on how we care for the people around us and future generations. Jana Romanova studied journalism but switched to visual arts. Social engagement, a search for socially relevant themes, and a connection with the public are also common threads throughout her artistic practice. www.museumhilversum.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/janaromanova-water-portraits Solo

Intertwined Namuso Gallery The Hague, Netherlands GALLERY EXHIBITION |
Namuso Gallery proudly presents
Intertwined, a duo exhibition featuring the works of multidisciplinary artist
Jana Romanova and visual artist
Jaeyoung Park. Both artists explore the interconnectedness of human experience through their distinctive mediums, offering viewers a unique reflection on memory, connection, and the passage of time. namuso-gallery.com/exhibitions/10-jana-romanova-jaeyoung-park-intertwined/Duo

2021

due to the Russian invasion in February 2022 and are currently hosted by families across the Netherlands. In a three-channel installation, actress Ewa (Yarasolva Krutova) performs a series of monologues on behalf of these women, detailing their efforts to find common ground and learn how to live alongside strangers in spite of their cultural differences. The project brings together complex narratives about loneliness and togetherness; kindness and cultural clichés; humour and sorrow; but also the hope to call a place home again. I don't think I'll stay here long is a collaboration between actress and performance artist Ewa (Yaroslava Krutova) who arrived in the Netherlands from Ukraine in March 2022, and lensbased artist Jana Romanova who came to the Netherlands from Russia in 2019. The project is produced and presented at Outsiderland, with informational support from FOTODOK.

Water Portraits Message in a Photo Foundation Amsterdam, Netherlands www.miap.nl/about/ In this project I invite participants to reuse 1 liter of water one after another until it's gone or nobody else is ready to deal with it. The water is frozen in between the usages, and every volunteer receives it in the form of an ice cube. From an experiment in finding a creative way of using water productively, it became a project that asks questions about what does it mean to "use" and when it seems useless, and what is the role of art in our understanding of recycling, reusing and sustainability. 1.2 billion people, or almost one-third of the world's population, now live in countries with physical water scarcity, and using a very limited amount of freshwater for all needs is an exercise they do every day. And, according to the UN's World Water Development Report, 40% of the population of Earth will already suffer from water stress by 2030.

Chin Up Chin Down The Hague,
Netherlands
janaromanova.com/chinupchindown "Chin
Up Chin Down" is a participatory
performance, a game, that reflects upon the
relationships between a photographer, the
one being photographed, and a camera.
Two people are giving each other multiple
instructions — where to move, where to

2023

2024

The Grand Palace of Everyone Nest The

Hague, Netherlands "I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long" created in collaboration with Ewa Kruttova is a pat of this show. Welcome to 'The Grand Palace of Everyone', a land without borders where collaboration reigns. Together with No Limits! Art Castle (formerly known as Outsiderland) we tear down the walls between fantasy and reality, art and design, and 'insider' and 'outsider' artists. Why would anyone decide who is 'professional enough' to enter the gates? 'The Grand Palace of Everyone' rolls out a black and white carpet for the work of over sixty artists in 26 unique collaborations between talented and dedicated artists. Side by side they find their way in the art world and present a broad scope of collaborations in every nook and cranny of Nest. Never before have so many artists shared the space in one exhibition.

2021

2017

2016

www.nestruimte.nl/en/exhibition/thegrand-palace-of-everyone/ Group

Water Portraits See Lab Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands In the "Water Portraits" project, Jana Romanova invites participants to consecutively reuse one liter of freshwater until it's depleted. After each use, she freezes the water and takes its portrait. These frozen portraits receive the names of their users, along with a recipe for how the water was repurposed. As one cycle concludes due to the depletion of water, a new cycle begins. This exhibition at See Lab features approximately 80 works that document this ongoing process for the last two years. "Water Portraits" delves into the interconnectedness of our actions, temporary ownership of resources, and the evocative passage of time. The exhibition is created with a support of Stroom Den Haag www.seelab.nl/program/2023/waterportraits-

www.seelab.nl/program/2023/waterportraitsjana-romanova Solo

The Ways of Water Melkweg Expo Amsterdam, Netherlands The group exhibition 'The Ways of Water', on display at Melkweg Expo from June 3 to look, how to feel. Their communication is based on controlling each other in front of a camera and for the camera. This project exists in the form of video documentation of each game and its translation into a format of a booklet. "Chin Up Chin Down" looks into when and how do we become readable images and challenges the language of power.

Images I Can't Show The Hague,
Netherlands janaromanova.com/images-i-can-t-show "Images I can't show" is a
photobook without photographs. All images
in it can be described, but not shown
publicly for various reasons — ethical
dilemmas, political danger, concerns about
representation. Using those photographs
from her own archive created over the
course of 20 years as case studies,
photographer Jana Romanova discusses
dilemmas that contemporary photography
faces in a rapidly evolving conversation
about ethics.

The Goddess Guide Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation janaromanova.com/thegoddess-guide I found a lot of courses in Russia offering practices that teach women special ways of interacting with the world: how to collect feminine energy, follow the moon calendar, «breathe» with your womb, find a goddess inside yourself and change reality around you. I started to visit femininity teachers to see if I could understand what femininity is and if it could help me. «When a woman becomes feminine she can get everything she needs only by thinking about it. Every woman can have this power. You can also have it if you want. The only thing you need is to accept who you are and learn how to raise your feminine energy» were some of the mantras told to me by over fifty female coaches I met over the course of nearly one year in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Many teachers offered me an experience of femininity through bodily senses and emotions, which also formed part of their theory: femininity can't be explained, it can only be felt.

Adopted Welsh Ffotogallery Cardiff, United Kingdom janaromanova.com/adopted-welsh Traveling across Wales — whose people have been struggling for their identity ever since they lost their

2023

2022

July 10, 2022, explores the relationship between humans and water through photography and art installations: humankind's dependence, but also his subordination to water. . Numerous (inter)national and multimedia artists investigate the influence of man-made climate change, pollution and water depletion on our planet: Suzette Bousema, Jana Romanova, Koos Buster, Mazen Al Ashkar, Frank Bloem, Tina Farifteh, The Water School (initiated by studio Makkink & Bey) and Elise 't Hart. www.melkweg.nl/en/expo/ Group

2015

2014

2013

A Call to a Friend W139 Amsterdam, Netherlands On 3d of April 15.00 at @w139amsterdam I called my friends. There were people who are in Ukraine doing as much as they can to help those near them. Others are around the world creating initiatives to support those who left the country and bring important supplies to the danger zones. Some are resisting the regime and protest in Russia. This event is an opportunity to find different ways to help — from important personal stories by those strongly affected by the Russia's government war in Ukraine. w139.nl/en/ Solo

2022

2022

I Don't Think I'll Stay Here Long No Limits Art Castle (formerly Outsiderland) Amsterdam, Netherlands In this project multiple stories of women who came to the Netherlands during the last months of Russian invasion to Ukraine are told through the voice and body of one actress. In a three-channel installation Ewa Kruttova reenacts several monologues of Ukrainians who are hosted by families in different Dutch cities. They speak about their attempts to find understanding and live together with strangers despite cultural and habitual differences. It is a complex narrative about loneliness and togetherness, kindness and cultural cliches, humour and sorrow, but also about support and a hope to have home again. This project is created in collaboration with Ewa

independence in the Middle Ages — Russian photographer Jana Romanova experimented with her own identity and tried to become Welsh, following advice from local people.

Waiting Moscow, Russian Federation janaromanova.com/waiting It is early morning and young Russian couples, inhabitants of Saint Petersburg and Moscow, are sleeping in their bedrooms. They're preparing to become parents in few months, and the camera documents both their poses and also the details of their interiors. Bed sheets, objects of daily life and decorations tell how the last generation born before the fall of the Soviet Union currently lives in big cities of modern Russia.

The Alphabet of Shared Words Kiev, Ukraine <u>janaromanova.com/the-alphabet-</u> of-shared-words In March 2014, tensions between Russia and Ukraine reached a high point, stoked by the war of information involving the situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Citizens of both countries started to lose the desire to understand each other. I asked different people who took part in the revolution in Kiev at the Square of Independence to remember words that are the same in Russian and Ukrainian and illustrate these words by posing for portraits. The result is a kind of "ABCs" based on the idea that understanding starts from language, and language starts from the alphabet.

Shvilishvili Tbilisi, Georgia janaromanova.com/shvilishvili "Shvilishvili" is Georgian for "grandchild"; it can literally be translated as "a child of a child". In this project, presented as a book-object, I question the value of family photography and family ties in modern society through an attempt to unite all of my relatives from one bloodline through photography. My family is divided between two countries - Russia and Georgia; the problems between its members on both sides of the border arise from the post-war political situation as well as the tragic story of a murder committed inside the family.

Kruttova and support of No Limits Art Castle (formerly Outsiderland) in Amsterdam.

Solo

2022 PAN Amsterdam PAN Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands "Water Portraits" project was exhibited together with several other ecologically and socially engaged project supported by MIAP Foundation in the last 10 years.

www.pan.nl/en/dealerdetails/281/miapfoundation Group

2021 Chin Up Chin Down KABK Graduation Show The Hague, Netherlands "Chin Up Chin Down" is a participatory performance, a game, that reflects upon the relationships between a photographer, the one being photographed, and a camera. Two people are giving each other multiple instructions — where to move, where to look, how to feel. Their communication is based on controlling each other in front of a camera and for the camera. This project exists in the form of video documentation of each game and its translation into a format of a booklet. "Chin Up Chin Down" looks into when and how do we become readable images and challenges the language of power.

> graduation2021.kabk.nl/students/janaromanova Group

- 2019 (Beside) Yourself Photographic musem
 Metenkov's House Yekaterinburg,
 Russian Federation "Losing 31 of
 August", "Close Relationship",
 "Goddess Guide" and "W" were
 presented at this big solo show.
 dommetenkova.ru/exhibitions/2019/romanova
 Solo
- 2017 Photobook Phenomenon CCCB
 Barcelona, Spain The exhibition
 highlights the role of the photobook in
 contemporary visual culture and takes
 it as the departure point for a
 reinterpretation of the history of
 photography. "Shivilishvili" project was
 exhibited at this group show.
 www.cccb.org/en/exhibitions/file/photobook-

phenomenon/225004 Group

- 2017 https://issuu.com/copenhagenphotofestival/docs/cpf2017-program__12._maj-/39 Copenhagen
 Photo Festival Copenhagen, Denmark
 "The Goddess Guide" and "W" projects
 exhibited in several rooms of a former
 power plant in the center of the city.
 issuu.com/copenhagenphotofestival/docs/cpf2017program__12._maj-/39
 Solo
- There is something about my family FOTODOK Utrecht, Netherlands In There is Something about My Family, 15 makers explore the influence of immigration, war, ideologies and other (major) societal changes on family ties. My project "Shvilishvili" was exhibited at this group show.

 www.fotodok.org/en/there-is-something-about-my-family/
 Group
- 2016 Adopted Welsh Ffotogallery Cardiff, United Kingdom Being a foreigner in Wales. I started a series of one-to-one conversations with different people who consider themselves Welsh, asking them to describe Welsh person, Welsh identity to me and in the end asking if they think I can also become Welsh. Out of almost 50 interviews in different parts of Wales, there was only one negative answer, while everybody else provided me with different recommendations on becoming Welsh. I took all of these suggestions and made them my regular practice. Every day for two months I tried to become part of different groups of people who are doing something together across Wales, changing my appearance in order to fit properly, to be less visible as a stranger. This practice became a search not only for what is national identity, but mainly a search for community, for a place and a moment where community exists.' europeanprospects.org/channel/janaromanova-adopted-welsh
- 2016 The Alphabet of Shared Words the Museum of Photography Braunschweig, Germany The work »Shvilishvili«

Solo

(grandchild) was preceded by a private process of rapprochement with the Georgian family branch of the photographer. In the sense of an "antiphoto album" the work reflects the function of the family album as a collective visual memory which enhances the memory of a special event. In so doing, the work brings together visually the photographer's relatives who are spread over two countries and who have lost contact with one another because of the political framework as well as the occurrence of a tragic death. As a visual construction of this family history, the "anti-photo album" reveals in a medial reconstruction how photographic insights into personal biographies and the complexity of individual destinies cannot be made to agree, and that such biographies cannot really be visually captured by photographic documentation. The work »Immerse«, on the other hand, which arose in 2014, set off a physical confrontation of young adults with the legacies of the political show of force in Sevastopol in Crimea. Immersing in history and interacting spatially with the monuments, the portrayed persons endeavour to find their bearings. In this process, the ironic comparison between physical self-presentation and the monument produces a contrast that can hardly be more sharply defined. www.photomuseum.de/janaromanova-the-alphabet-of-sharedwords/ Solo

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2025 Performing Arts Forum (PAF) Saint Erme, France I was invited to visit Performing Arts Forum Summer University to present my work and teach a workshop www.pa-f.net/

2018 Webster University Leiden Campus Leiden, Netherlands Residency of the Webster University Leiden Campus

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

The Alphabet of Shared Words Hirsh Library
Houston, Verenigde Staten
https://www.mfah.org/research/hirschlibrary/

organized by Media Communications department in collaboration with Unseen festival. During this residency I co-organized together with the head of the department Daria Tuminas a one-day workshop "Book Grasp" and prepared a series of videos and live performance on stage of the Unseen Festival called the "Expert Photobook Review"

www.facebook.com/events/330660294174587

- 2018 Cassis Air Cassis, France In January
 2018 I've been working in this
 residency for a month to develop my
 work-in-progress project "Close
 Relationship" cassisair.com/
- 2016 Docking Station Amsterdam,
 Netherlands Docking Station is a
 platform where visual stories from
 different cultures find a form. We do
 this by charging them with knowledge
 and then, in co-creation with Dutch
 creators, turning them into concrete
 products. In this way, the stories can be
 more widely shared, and thereby
 contribute to a more conscious society.
 www.dockingstation.today/jana
- 2015 Ffotogallery Cardiff, United Kingdom
 During her European Prospects
 residency with Ffotogallery in Wales,
 Jana Romanova developed a new body
 of work titled Adopted Welsh.
 europeanprospects.org/channel/janaromanova-adopted-welsh

PUBLICATIONS

2015 Waiting Book selfpublished Jana
Romanova Saint-Petersburg, Russian
Federation janaromanova.com/waitingbook 24,5 cm x 16 cm 470 gm 96
pages design: Anton Lepashov year of
publication: 2015 Young Russian
couples, inhabitants of SaintPetersburg and Moscow, are sleeping
in their bedrooms early in the morning,
the time when people don't really care
about their appearance, being natural.
They are preparing to become parents
in few months, and the project
investigates not only their attitude to

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2024

2024	Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam (NL) The Hague, Netherlands Received an extension to the Mondriaan Artist Start subsidy for one more year
2024	ProInvest Subsidy PRO Invest, Stroom Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands
2022	Mondriaan Artist Start Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam (NL) The Hague, Netherlands
2022	Pro Kunstrproject Subsidy Kunstproject Subsidy, Stroom, The Hague, NL The

Mandriaan Artist Start (axtention)

each other during the period of expecting a baby, but also the way young families live in big cities of modern Russia, 20 years after the fall of the Soviet Union, the country that will be known to their children only from history books.

2015

2012

2021

The Alphabet of Shared Words Book selfpublished Jana Romanova Saint-Peterburg, Russian Federation janaromanova.com/the-alphabet-ofshared-words-book Hand-made (the notebook itself is made by Konstantin Ladvischenko) 14 x 18,5 cm Edition of 29 29 archival pigment prints Sold out In March 2014 the tension between Russia and Ukraine started to grow high, inspired by the informational war on the situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Citizens of both countries started to loose the desire to understand each other. Romanova asked different people who took part in the revolution in Kiev at the Square of Independence, to remember words which are absolutely the same both in Russian and Ukrainian languages and illustrate these words for the photographs — to make a sort of ABC, based on the idea that understanding starts from language, and language starts from alphabet. Each book has a letter, not a number, and a print representing this letter.

Federation

janaromanova.com/shvilishvili-book

Hand-made collectors edition of 67

15×32 cm Hardcover (canvas) 106

pages, color weight around 450 gr 4

plastic bags, a rope 1 meter long Print

15×20 cm A box *each 10 copies are

somehow different from each other

Sold out "Shvilishvili" is Georgian for

"grandchild", literally it could be

translated as "a child of a child". In this

project, presented as book-object, the

author questions the value of family

photography and family ties themselfs
in modern society through an attempt

to unite her relatives from one blood line by photography. The family is divided between two countries —

Shvilishvili Book selfpublished Jana

Romanova Saint-Petersburg, Russian

Hague, Netherlands Received a grant from Stroom Den Haag to work on The Water Portraits project

Water Stress MIAP Amsterdam, Netherlands In this project I invite participants to reuse 1 liter of water one after another until it's gone or nobody else is ready to deal with it. The water is frozen in between the usages, and every volunteer receives it in the form of an ice cube. From an experiment in finding a creative way of using water productively, it became a project that asks questions about what does it mean to "use" and when it seems useless. and what is the role of art in our understanding of recycling, reusing and sustainability. 1.2 billion people, or almost one-third of the world's population, now live in countries with physical water scarcity, and using a very limited amount of freshwater for all needs is an exercise they do every day. And, according to the UN's World Water Development Report, 40% of the population of Earth will already suffer from water stress by 2030.

2016 Joop Swart Masterclass World Press Photo, NL Amsterdam, Netherlands I was nominated and selected to take part in the Joop Swart Masterclass

2016 Author's Book Award Les Recontres d'Arles Arles, France Shortlisted with "The Alphabet of Shared Words"

2015 Adopted Welsh European Prospects
Cardiff, United Kingdom Received a grant
and was selected for a residency at
Ffotogallery in Cardiff, UK, to create a new
project called "Adopted Welsh"

Russia and Georgia, — and the problems of it's members on both sides of the border arise from the post-war political situation as well as the tragic story of a murder committed inside the family.

2012

The Book of Savior Book selfpublished Jana Romanova Saint-Peterburg, Russian Federation janaromanova.com/the-book-ofsaviour Self-published laser print 19×25 cm 60 pages Edition of 24 + print 15×23 cm When you say it in Russian language there is not much difference between two words: "spasatel""("rescue officer" or "firefighter")" and "spasitel""("savior", "redeemer", "Jesus Christ"), but the connotations are almost opposite. Rescue officers come when something bad already happened, often they just carry dead bodies and basically they don't prevent tragedy, but deal only with it's consequences. The original document is called "The Book of a rescue officer", and all rescue officers in Russian Federation get one after their first certification. Every owner of this book has to fill it by hand, writing down all the accidents he was involved in as a rescue officer throughout his career. It becomes a sort of a lifetime experience record of seeing people suffering and dying amost every day. Jana Romanova spent two and a half years in a rescue division in Russia, working on a project, exploring what happens with your attitude to death when you meet it every day.

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2021 Workshop "Translating Methods" at MA
 2021 "Photography and Society" and "Interior Architecture" at KABK
- 2020 Teaching a course in photojournalism
 2020 for part-time BA in Photography at KABK
- 2016 -- Teaching in multiple schools in Russia

project thinking in art On-going



The Broken Archive, 2025 Performance, 45 minutes



The Broken Archive, 2025 Photography, 25x25 cm



The Broken Archive, 2025 role-playing game, 4 hours



Water Portraits exhibition, 2024 photography, 45x45 cm including frame







Water Portraits installation, 2023 Photography, installation, 14x8 meters, 83 A2 images



Water Portraits. Installation at See Lab, 2023



DreamHouse, 2023 Live-action role-play, 4-6 hours



The Last Submarine, 2023 Live-action role play, 4-6 hours